AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A protective film for polarizing plates which comprises a thermoplastic film having a photoelastic coefficient of 9.0×10^{-12} Pa^{-1} or smaller and a saturated water absorption smaller than 0.05% by weight and an antireflection layer formed by alternately laminating high refractivity layers and low refractivity layers at least on one face of the thermoplastic film and having a reflectance of 0.5% or smaller at a wavelength of 550 nm and has a standard deviation of S of 0.3 or smaller, wherein the standard deviation of S is obtained by obtaining a reflectance R(λ) at a wavelength λ in a region of wavelength of 380 to 780 nm while the wavelength λ is successively increased by an increment of 1 nm from 380 nm to 780 nm, calculating S in accordance with relation (1):

$$S = \sum_{\lambda=380}^{780} \Delta\lambda \cdot R(\lambda) \qquad \cdots (1)$$

which gives a sum of products of the reflectance R(λ) at a wavelength of λ and the increment of the wavelength between two successive measurements of the reflectance Δλ (=1 nm), and calculating the standard deviation of S obtained at 10 points randomly selected within an area of 100 cm^2 on a surface of the film.

2. (Original) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 1, wherein the antireflection layer is a layer formed at least on one face of the thermoplastic film while the thermoplastic film is brought into contact with a thermally conductive material having a surface temperature higher than [a glass transition temperature of the thermoplastic film - 130°C] and lower than the glass transition temperature of the thermoplastic film.

3. (Currently amended) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claims 1~~or 2~~, wherein the antireflection layer is a layer formed in accordance with a physical vapor deposition process or a chemical vapor deposition process.

4. (Currently amended) A protective film for polarizing plates according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1, which further comprises at least one hard coat layer.

5. (Original) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 4, wherein the hard coat layer has an average surface roughness of 0.5 μm or smaller.

6. (Currently amended) A protective film for polarizing plates according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, wherein an outermost surface of the thermoplastic film at a side having the antireflection layer has an electric resistance of 1×10^9 Ω/□ or smaller.

7. (Currently amended) A protective film for polarizing plates according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic film is a film comprising a polymer having an alicyclic structure.

8. (New) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 1, wherein the photoelastic coefficient is 8.0×10^{-12} Pa^{-1} or smaller.

9. (New) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 1, wherein the standard deviation of S is 0.1 or smaller.

10. (New) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 4, wherein the thickness of the hard coat layer is from 0.5 to 30 μ.

11. (New) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 4, wherein the hard coat layer comprises a hard coat material which is curable by ionizing radiation.

12. (New) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 7, wherein the polymer having an alicyclic structure is a norbornene-based polymer.

13. (New) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 6, wherein the electric resistance is 1×10^8 $\Omega/\square$ or smaller.

14. (New) A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic film is obtained by a melt extrusion molding process using a T-die.